

Amendments to the Claims:

The following listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

1. (Currently Amended) An alternator for use in an automotive vehicle, the alternator comprising:

a housing formed in a substantially cylindrical shape having an axial end wall;

a stator fixedly disposed in the housing;

a rotor rotatably supported inside the stator, the rotor including a cooling fan fixed to its axial end surface, wherein:

a plurality of spokes are formed on the axial end wall of the housing;

air inlet ports facing the cooling fan are formed ~~at both sides of the spokes~~between neighboring spokes, so that cooling air is introduced into the housing through the inlet ports according to rotation of the cooling fan fixed to the rotor; ~~and~~

a plurality of ribs are formed between the neighboring spokes, the spokes being larger in both the height and the width than the ribs and having a larger mechanical strength than the ribs; and

the spokes are tilted in a direction opposite to a rotational direction of the rotor with respect to a radial line extending from a rotational center of the rotor.

2. (Original) The alternator as in claim 1, wherein:

the spokes are tilted by a tilt angle in a range from 10° to 45°.

3. (Currently Amended) ~~The alternator as in claim 1,~~ An alternator for use in an automotive vehicle, the alternator comprising:

a housing formed in a substantially cylindrical shape having an axial end wall;

a stator fixedly disposed in the housing;

a rotor rotatably supported inside the stator, the rotor including a cooling fan fixed to its axial end surface, wherein:

a plurality of spokes are formed on the axial end wall of the housing;

air inlet ports facing the cooling fan are formed at both sides of the spokes, so that cooling air is introduced into the housing through the inlet ports according to rotation of the cooling fan fixed to the rotor; and

the spokes are tilted in a direction opposite to a rotational direction of the rotor with respect to a radial line extending from a rotational center of the rotor ~~wherein;~~ and

only one side of the spokes which is positioned downstream of the rotational direction of the rotor is tilted.

4. (Original) The alternator as in claim 2, wherein:
the tilt angle is set not to exceed 25°.
5. (Original) The alternator as in claim 1, wherein:
only some of the plurality of spokes are tilted while other spokes are not tilted.
6. (Canceled)